

REMARKS

The interview with examiners Alex B. Toy and Mike Peffley on January 18, 2007 is acknowledged with appreciation. The examiners' interview summary is accurate as to what transpired at the interview.

Claims 1-15, 17 and 22-40 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

Claims 18-21 remain withdrawn from consideration.

New claims 50-54 are presented.

At the interview counsel for applicants noted that the prior art of record does not teach or suggest using lecithin on the surface of an electro-cautery probe. The examiner's urged that Adair (U.S. Patent No. 4,269,174) discloses a needle and electrode, Khan (U.S. Patent No. 5,824,359) discloses using lecithin as a lubricant to facilitate insertion of a needle and it would have been obvious to Adair's needle with lecithin as is suggested by Kahn. Using lecithin on a needle to facilitate insertion of the needle is not the same as applicants' claimed invention which is directed to using lecithin for electro-cauterization. It was agreed that the claim limitation "an electro-cautery probe not designed for penetrating the skin prior to electro-cauterization" avoids the present prior art of record. The present claims have been amended to include this limitation.

It was agreed that the specification be amended to include reference to prior art electro-cautery probes that are not designed for penetrating the skin prior to electro-cauterization such as that shown in applicants' Figs 1-4. An appropriate amendment is made to the specification citing two such prior art references (U.S. Patent Nos. 1,813,902 and 4,562,838).

In view of the above, it is submitted that all of the claims (Nos. 16 and 41-54) are in condition for allowance and such action is, respectfully, requested.

If there is any issue remaining to be resolved, the examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned so that resolution can be promptly effected.

It is requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response with the fee for such extensions and shortages in other fees, being charged, or any overpayment in fees being credited, to the Account of Barnes & Thornburg, Deposit Account No. 10-0435 (6034-74031).

Respectfully submitted,
BARNES & THORNBURG LLP

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard B. Lazarus".

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